

REMARKS

Claims 25-59 and 97-115, and 117-122 are pending in the application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the previous rejections and the Examiner's indication that claims 29-33, 37-59, 100, 105-115 and 117-122 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten as suggested in the Office Action. The claims have been amended as follows.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 37, and claim 37 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 38 and 39 have been amended to change their dependency from canceled claim 37 to claim 25.

Claim 53 has been rewritten in independent form by including the subject matter of base claim 25.

Claim 97 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 106, and claim 106 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 107 and 108 have been amended to change their dependency from canceled claim 106 to claim 97.

Claim 119 has been rewritten in independent form by including the subject matter of base claim 97.

New claims 125-135 have been added, wherein claim 125 is claim 42 written in independent form and wherein claims 126-136 depend from claim 125 and are similar in subject matter to dependent claims 43-52, respectively.

No new matter has been introduced by the above amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 25-35 stand rejected as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, claim 25 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 37 (i.e., claim 25 is claim 37 rewritten in independent form), which renders the rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 25, 27, 28, 34-36, 97-99 and 103 are rejected as being unpatentable over GLINERT. Claims 26, 100 and 104 are rejected as being unpatentable over GLINERT and GOURDOL.

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the claim rejections, the claims have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution and placing the application in condition for allowance.

For instance, claim 25 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 37. Claim 25 is essentially claim 37 written in independent form, and thus allowable as indicated in the Office Action.

Moreover, claim 97 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 106. Claim 97 is essentially claim 106 written in independent form, and thus allowable as indicated in the Office Action.

Moreover, claims 26, 27, 28, 34-36, 98-99, 100, 103 and 104 are patentable over the cited art of record at least by virtue of their dependence (directly or indirectly) from respective base claims 25 and 97, which have been placed in condition for allowance.

Moreover, new claims 125-135 are patentable and in condition for allowance, as claim 125 is claim 42 rewritten in independent form, and thus allowable as indicated in the Office Action. Claims 126-135 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 125.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejections is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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